

REMARKS

Claims 3-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 4 are amended and claims 1, 2 and 8-28 are cancelled. In particular, allowable claims 3 and 4 have been amended into independent form.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Fischer at the interview held July 28, 2009 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

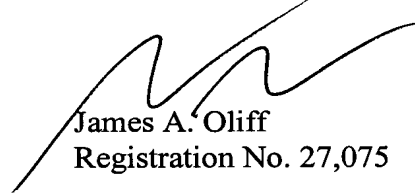
Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-7.

The rejections of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP-A-09-001694 (JP'694) and JP-A-04-275136 (JP'136), claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP'136 in view of JP-A-2002-79590 (JP'590) or Ikeda et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0074077, and claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP'136 in view of JP'590 and admitted prior art, have been rendered moot because the claims have been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 7, 2009

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